

during the Commission was 240, and the number of cases on the sick-list was 956, giving a percentage per annum of 113·8. Seven deaths occurred, giving a percentage of 0·83 per annum. Only two of these last were due to natural causes, three of them being caused by violence and two by acute poisoning. Eleven men were invalided (1·30 per cent. per annum), and fifteen were sent to hospital, or at the rate of 1·78 per cent. per annum. The only other changes, besides those arising from deaths, invaliding, and sending men to hospital, were due to desertion, for which the attractions of the Australian ports visited are chiefly responsible.

The following brief enumeration of the principal diseases, &c., which prevailed on board, the localities in which these occurred, and the causes to which they were attributable, comprises all the information of medical interest that can be recorded in the limits of this short article:—

GENERAL DISEASES.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases of this fever occurred, one at Sidney where, at the time of the visit, the disease prevailed in the lower and dirtier parts of the town frequented by blue-jackets when on leave, and where the sewage arrangements were very defective, the main sewer discharging into the land-locked harbour in the immediate vicinity of the most crowded part of the town. The second case occurred at Hong Kong, where the disease was also prevalent at the time.

Yellow Fever.—A single case occurred on board during the ship's stay at Bahia. The medical officers were assured on arrival that the town was quite free from this formidable disease, but within a few days some merchant seamen in the harbour died of it, and six days after arrival an ordinary seaman who had slept on shore four nights previously was taken ill and was landed at the Brazilian Yellow Fever Hospital, where he afterwards died. The weather was, at the time of the visit (September), hot and oppressive, and the sanitary arrangements of the town were very defective. The ship left Bahia immediately, and proceeded to a higher and cooler latitude. Fortunately no further case of this fever occurred.

Malarious Fevers.—It might have been expected, owing to the number of places in the tropics visited where these fevers are endemic, that there would have been a large amount of sickness among the ship's company from this cause. Only twenty-eight cases occurred, however, and these were of a comparatively mild description. This practical immunity may be ascribed to the care taken to avoid unnecessary exposure of the men employed in boats, surveying, &c., in malarious places; compelling men on leave to be on board by sunset; and lastly, perhaps, to the prophylactic use of quinine in places where the malarious poison was supposed to be unusually potent. No death nor invaliding occurred from this cause. The following are the places in which the disease was